

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2004. Claims 20-44 are now present in this case. Claims 20-27 are amended. Claims 1-19 are canceled. New claims 28-44 have been added.

The applicant wishes to express his appreciation to the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for a telephone interview on January 12, 2005, with patent attorneys representing the applicant. As discussed with the Examiner, the claims have been revised to better reflect operation from the perspective of a commentary reporting service.

As further discussed with the Examiner, the primary reference cited in the Office Action dated September 27, 2004, is U.S. Patent No. 5,895,450 to Sloo. However, Sloo is a dispute resolution system and lacks many of the features and characteristics of the claimed invention. For example, the substance of claim 28 was discussed with the Examiner. Claim 28 is a method claim reciting *inter alia* "receiving an entity selecting electronic communication from each of a plurality of data inputting users different from the commentary reporting service, the entity selecting communication being used to select an entity from a plurality of entities different from the commentary reporting service and the user." For each of the data inputting users, claim 28 recites "providing a positive rating category and a negative rating category for the data inputting user-selected entity" as well as "receiving user input from the data inputting user to select either the positive rating category or the negative rating category for the data inputting user-selected entity." Finally, for each of the data-inputting users, claim 28 recites "receiving a monetary contribution to the commentary reporting service from the data inputting user in an amount selected by the data inputting user."

Sloo does not teach or suggest such a method. In particular, Sloo does not teach or suggest providing each data inputting user with a positive rating category and a negative rating category for the data inputting user-selected entity. Sloo briefly describes a satisfaction process, such as a questionnaire. However, the individual completing the questionnaire is rating satisfaction with the dispute resolution process and does not rate satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the data inputting user-selected

entity. For example, if the user has a dispute with a telephone service provider, by definition the user is unhappy with the telephone service provider and is utilizing the dispute resolution of Sloo to resolve the complaint. The user may subsequently rate the satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the dispute resolution process, but Sloo does not teach or suggest that the user ever provides a selection of a positive or negative rating category with respect to the telephone service provider. Accordingly, Sloo does not teach or suggest the process of providing a positive rating category and a negative rating category for the data inputting user-selected entity or receiving user input from the data inputting user to select either the positive rating category or the negative rating category, as recited in claim 28.

Furthermore, Sloo does not teach or suggest the commentary reporting service receiving a monetary contribution from the data inputting user in an amount selected by the data inputting user. The Office Action appears to equate the dispute resolution service in Sloo with the commentary reporting service. However, the only mention of money in Sloo comes at column 12, lines 15-25. In that passage, Sloo states that “at any time during the use of the apparatus, the program may require any of the users to pay a fee.” (See column 12, lines 15-16.) However, it is clear that this is a payment of a user fee for the service provided by the dispute resolution system and not a part of a system for rating a third party’s products or services. There is no suggestion in Sloo that the user fee is a contribution, nor does Sloo suggest that the amount is selected by the data inputting user.

Claim 28 further recites “using the monetary contribution and a rating category selection of the data inputting user for building monetary commentary of data inputting user satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the data inputting user-selected entity based on the monetary contributions associated with the positive rating category and the monetary contributions associated with the negative rating category by the plurality of data inputting users.” As noted above, Sloo does not teach or suggest any process that receives user input from data inputting users to select a positive rating category or a negative rating category and a monetary contribution to the commentary reporting service in an amount selected by the data inputting user. Furthermore, Sloo does not teach or suggest the use of that monetary contribution and the rating category selection

by the data inputting user for building a monetary commentary of user input satisfaction or dissatisfaction based upon the monetary contributions associated with the positive rating category and monetary contributions associated with the negative rating category. The monetary payments in Sloo are fees for the dispute processing service and are not associated with contributions in a positive rating category or a negative rating category. Sloo does not teach or suggest building a monetary commentary on the basis of monetary contributions associated with positive and negative rating categories, such as recited in claim 28. Accordingly, claim 28 is clearly allowable over the cited references.

Claims 29-36 are also allowable in view of the fact that they depend from claim 28, and further in view of the recitation in each of those claims. For example, claims 32-35 illustrate different ways in which the contribution data may be processed to build the monetary commentary.

Other independent claims are similarly unique and patentably distinct over the references. For the sake of brevity, the arguments presented with respect to claim 28 will not be repeated.

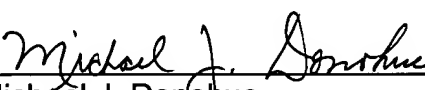
The elements recited in claim 28 all find clear support in the application as originally filed. For example, the collection of data from a plurality of data inputting users is described on page 14, lines 21-22 and original claim 12. The process of selecting an entity from among a plurality of entities is illustrated in Figures 2, 3, and 8. The process of selecting an entity is illustrated at step 284 of Figure 8. The provision of a positive rating category and a negative rating category is illustrated on Figure 6 and described on page 8, lines 4-8. Receiving user input from the data inputting user to select either the positive rating category or the negative rating category is also illustrated in the flow chart of Figure 8 at step 288. The selection of a monetary contribution amount by the data inputting user is illustrated in Figure 6 and in Figure 8 at step 286 and described on page 14, lines 8-10. The use of the monetary contribution and the rating category selection for building a monetary commentary is illustrated in Figure 8 at step 290 and described on page 14, line 12 to page 15, line 22. Other elements may also be readily found in the specification or drawings. Thus, no new matter has been introduced in the amended claims or newly presented claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the subject application and its allowance are kindly requested. If questions remain regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7640.

Respectfully submitted,

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